31st Congress, 1st Session. [SENATE.] Ex. Doc. No. 21.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

The report of the Director of the Mint for the year 1849.

JANUARY 28, 1850.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith the annual report of the director of the mint at Philadelphia, showing the operations of the mint and its branches, for the year 1849.

Z. TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, *January* 28, 1850.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Philadelphia, January 18, 1850.

SIR: I have the honor of submitting the following report, in compliance with the act which requires that "in the month of January of every year the director shall make report to the President of the United States, of the operations of the mint and its branches for the year preceding."

The coinage of the principal mint in 1849 amounted to $8,913,266 32, comprising $7,948,332 in gold, $922,950 in silver, and $41,984 32 in copper coins, and composed of 9,519,513 pieces. The deposites for coinage amounted to $10,473,724 in gold, and $1,045,259 in silver.

At the New Orleans branch mint the coinage amounted to $1,646,000, comprising $454,000 in gold, and $1,192,000 in silver coins, and composed of 2,988,900 pieces. The deposites for coinage amounted to $1,125,745 in gold, and $1,321,029 in silver.

The branch mint at Charlotte received during the year deposites of gold to the value of $390,732; and its coinage amounted to $361,299, composed of 86,677 pieces.

The branch mint at Dahlonega received during the year deposites of gold to the value of $252,974; and its coinage amounted to $244,130 50, composed of 71,569 pieces.

The deposites at the four mints amounted in all, during the year, to $14,609,463, of which $12,243,175 was in gold, and $2,366,288 in silver. The whole coinage amounted to $11,164,695 82, composed of $9,007,761 50 in gold, $2,114,950 in silver, and $41,984 32 in copper coins.

Other statements relating to the operations of the year and former years, are presented in the subjoined tables.

By an act passed at the last session of Congress, two new coins—the gold dollar and the double-eagle—were added to those previously authorized. Of the former, 936,789 have been coined, namely: 688,567 at the mint in Philadelphia, 215,000 at New Orleans, 21,588 at Dahlonega, and 11,634 at Charlotte. I regret to say that in consequence of difficulties in the execution of the dies, double-eagles have not yet been coined.

During the past year the deposites of California gold amounted at the Philadelphia mint to $5,481,439, and at the New Orleans branch mint to $666,080. Near the close of the year 1848, the first California gold was brought to the mint, and it amounted to $44,177. Since the end of the past year we have had deposites estimated at $750,000; so that there has been received at the mints, of this gold, the amount of $6,941,693.

Large as is the quantity of gold brought to the mints during the last year, it has been exceeded by that of 1847, when the deposites at the principal mint amounted to $13,670,896, and those at the New Orleans branch to $6,253,288. It must be observed, however, that the gold of the former year was in a great degree composed of foreign coins deposited for recoinage, while the greater part of that deposited during the past year was of native gold, and presented an actual increase of the quantity of this precious metal to be introduced into circulation.

The statements of the deposites and coinage of gold at the mint show that the latter is considerably in arrear. This is not owing to the quantity of gold—for a much greater amount was coined in 1847—but it is due to the circumstance that the California gold contains combined with it so large a portion of silver as to require that the two metals be separated, in order that the gold may be brought to the legal standard. This was to be done by a chemical process which demanded operations on a much larger scale than had been provided for; and during the necessary changes in the laboratory, time was spent and deposites were accumulated. Our means are believed to be now sufficient for refining, without much further delay, the gold still unparted; and we hope to be able thenceforward to make prompt payment to depositors.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your faithful servant,

R. M. PATTERSON,

Director of the Mint.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A.

Statement of the deposites and coinage at the mint of the United States and branches, in the year 1849.

DEPOSITES.

	MINTS.				Total.
	Charlotte, N. C.	Dahlonega, Ga.	New Orleans.	Philadelphia.	
GOLD.					
United States coins, old standard	.....	.....	$3,902 00	$37,318 00	$41,220 00
Foreign coins	.....	.....	437,130 00	4,483,091 00	4,920,221 00
United States bullion	$390,732 00	$252,974 00	677,985 00	5,767,092 00	7,088,783 00
Foreign bullion	.....	.....	6,728 00	186,223 00	192,951 00
Total gold	390,732 00	252,974 00	1,125,745 00	10,473,724 00	12,243,175 00
SILVER.					
Foreign coins	.....	.....	1,242,552 00	873,448 00	2,116,000 00
Foreign bullion	.....	.....	78,477 00	132,699 00	211,176 00
United States bullion, including partings from gold	.....	.....	.....	39,112 00	39,112 00
Total silver	.....	.....	1,321,029 00	1,045,259 00	2,366,288 00
Total in gold and silver	390,732 00	252,974 00	2,446,774 00	11,518,983 00	14,609,463 00
GOLD.					
Eagles.....pieces	.....	.....	23,900	653,618	677,518
Half eagles.....do	64,823	39,036	.....	133,070	236,929
Quarter eagles.....do	10,220	10,945	.....	23,294	44,459
Dollars.....do	11,634	21,588	215,000	688,567	936,789
Value of gold	361,299 00	244,130 50	454,000 00	7,948,332 00	9,007,761 50

A—Continued.

	MINTS.				Total.
	Charlotte, N. C.	Dahlonega, Ga.	New Orleans.	Philadelphia.	
SILVER.					
Dollars.....pieces..	.....	.....	.....	62,600	62,600
Half dollars.....do....	.....	.....	2,310,000	1,252,000	3,562,000
Quarter dollars.....do....	.....	.....	.....	340,000	340,000
Dimes.....do....	.....	.....	300,000	839,000	1,139,000
Half dimes.....do....	.....	.....	140,000	1,309,000	1,449,000
Value of silver.....	.....	.....	1,192,000 00	922,950 00	2,114,950 00
COPPER.					
Cents.....	.....	.....	.....	4,178,500	4,178,500
Half cents.....	.....	.....	.....	39,864	39,864
Value of copper.....	.....	.....	.....	41,984 32	41,984 32
Total coinage in pieces.....	86,677	71,569	2,988,900	9,519,513	12,666,659
Total coinage in value.....	361,299 00	244,130 50	1,646,000 00	8,913,266 32	11,164,695 82

FROM THE LIBRARY OF REMY BOURNE

Statement of the annual amount of deposites of gold for coinage at the Mint of the United States and its branches from mines in the United States.

Periods.	Deposited at the mint of the United States.							Deposited at the branch mints.				Mint and branches.
	Virginia.	North Carolina.	Georgia.	California	New Mexico.	Other sources.	Total.	Charlotte.	Dahlonega.	New Orleans.	Total.	Total deposites.
1824 to 1837.	$427,000	$2,582,500	$1,763,900	.....	.....	$353,100	$5,126,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	$5,126,500
1838.....	55,000	66,000	36,000	.....	.....	14,700	171,700	$127,000	$135,700	$700	$263,400	$435,100
1839.....	57,600	53,500	20,300	.....	.....	7,100	138,500	126,836	113,035	6,869	246,740	385,240
1840.....	38,995	36,804	91,113	.....	.....	9,854	176,766	124,726	121,858	2,835	249,419	426,185
1841.....	25,736	76,431	139,796	.....	.....	6,515	248,478	129,847	161,974	1,818	293,639	542,117
1842.....	42,163	61,629	150,276	.....	.....	19,519	273,587	174,508	323,372	5,630	503,510	777,097
1843.....	48,148	62,873	56,619	.....	.....	13,088	180,728	272,064	570,080	22,573	864,717	1,045,445
1844.....	40,595	194,917	30,739	.....	.....	28,771	295,022	167,348	479,794	25,036	672,178	967,200
1845.....	86,783	365,886	17,325	.....	.....	19,388	489,382	.....	498,632	20,313	518,945	1,008,327
1846.....	55,538	286,105	13,601	.....	.....	110,825	466,069	196,381	455,149	21,758	673,288	1,139,357
1847.....	67,736	99,491	10,547	.....	.....	5,635	183,409	344,054	352,366	9,256	705,676	889,085
1848.....	57,886	109,034	3,370	$44,177	$682	26,395	241,544	370,799	274,473	12,589	657,861	899,405
1849.....	129,382	102,688	10,525	5,481,439	32,889	10,169	5,767,092	390,732	252,974	677,985	1,321,691	7,088,783
	1,132,562	4,097,858	2,344,111	5,525,616	33,571	625,059	13,758,777	2,424,295	3,739,407	807,362	6,971,064	20,729,841

C.

Statement showing the deposites of California gold at the Mints of the United States.

Year.	Mints.		Total.
	Philadelphia.	New Orleans.	
1848	$44,177	.....	$44,177
1849	5,481,439	$666,080	6,147,519
Aggregate	5,525,616	666,080	6,181,696

D.

Statement of the entire coinage of the United States to the close of the year 1849.

Mints.	Commencement of coinage.	Gold.		Silver.		Copper.		Entire coinage.	
		Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
Philadelphia	1793	11,725,426	$63,470,612 00	176,801,491	$64,091,211 90	128,913,641	$1,251,734 52	317,440,558	$128,813,558 42
New Orleans	1838	2,551,895	15,768,990 00	34,551,830	11,490,253 00	.....	.....	37,103,725	27,259,243 00
Charlotte	1838	560,937	2,381,689 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	560,937	2,381,689 00
Dahlonega	1838	842,189	3,727,910 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	842,189	3,727,910 00
		15,680,447	85,349,201 00	211,353,321	75,581,464 90	128,913,641	1,251,734 52	355,947,409	162,182,400 42